

Etta Stewart Lee

Etta Stewart Lee, 90, of Chicago and formerly of Liberty, died June 24, 2009, at Advocate Trinity Hospital of Chicago.

Visitation is 10 a.m. Friday at Tickfaw M.B. Church until services there at 11, with Pastor Moyese Boss officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery under the direction of Peoples Undertaking Co. in McComb.

Mrs. Lee was born Dec. 30, 1918, in Amite County, to Willie and Minerva Bates Stewart.

She was born into a religious home rich in love and tempered with strong family values built on faith in God.

At an early age she professed her faith in Christ and served as a faithful member of Tickfaw M.B. Church. Diligence and dedication to service was shown during the 50 years she served on the Tickfaw Church Usher Board. In 2002, she relocated to Chicago, where she worshiped at First House of Prayer Church under Watch Care Ministry, which allowed her to maintain her membership at her home church while remaining connected to a church home in her residential area. "Mother Etta" was faithful to her God. Her family said that despite failing health, her spirits were high and her faith in God never wavered.

She was educated at Europe Bates School in Magnolia. She married Alex Lee Jr. on Feb. 21, 1938, and they had eight children, providing them a Bible-based home environment. She was a dedicated homemaker for more than 60 years and was a substitute teacher for Bates School for many years. She also worked in the school cafeteria for 13 years as a cook and a cashier at Central High

School in Liberty, and was a Head Start teacher. Because of her belief in education, she worked hard to help others become proficient in reading, math and writing.

Her family said, "Her soft-spoken sweet spirit was one that endeared her to those who met her. Her kindness and thoughtfulness made her a family favorite throughout the years, while her giving spirit made her garden and her kitchen table a highlight on any visit."

"The warmth of her love was as genuine as her homemade quilts were heavy. She was known for her beautifully created bows to coordinate with youngsters' dresses and special attire that showcased her talent in arts and crafts. She had flowing body movements and found creative dancing and singing refreshing."

"She was spontaneous in spoken language and often made up poems and songs on the spot. Many of her poems from earlier days she could recite many years later. During her earlier years she sang with a quartet with whom one of her lead songs was 'Come and Go With Me to My Father's House.' Her favorite song was 'Two Wings.'"

Mrs. Lee was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 60 years, Alex Lee Jr.; a son, Charles Edward Lee; five brothers, Willie Howard and Herbert, Charles, Leroy and Garret Stewart; and four sisters, Mary E. Robins, Laura Thompson, Callie Mae Patterson and Helen Haygood.

Survivors include her children, Alton Douglas Lee of New Orleans, Alice Faye Lee Davis, Loisther Lane Lee Singleton and Annette Lee Robinson and husband Mitchell, all of Chicago, Jennette Lee Alexander and husband McKinley, Thomas Cordell Lee and wife Janice, and Darrell Darnell Lee, all of Jackson; 18 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; her twin sister, Edna Stewart Scott of Liberty; her older sister, Wilhelmina Holden of Chicago; a sister-in-law, Lena Taplin of Liberty; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.